

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for assisting providers to prepare billings associated with workers' compensation claims, comprising:

a workers' compensation claims verification system;

software accessed at ~~a provider computer~~ a plurality of provider computers, the software ~~adapted to prompt~~ prompting the provider providers to input data concerning ~~[[a]] workers' compensation claim, send an~~ claims, and ~~sending~~ electronic claim number request requests containing at least some of the inputted data across the Internet to ~~[[a]] the~~ workers' compensation claim verification system; ~~[[and]]~~

wherein, the ~~[[a]]~~ workers' compensation claims verification system ~~adapted to:~~

~~[[receive]]~~ receives the ~~at least some of the~~ data contained in the electronic claim number requests; and

~~determine a~~ determines whether matching workers' compensation claim ~~number numbers~~ associated with ~~[[said]]~~ the received data exist; and, ~~if there is a matching workers' compensation claim number,~~

electronically ~~[[supply]]~~ supplies the matching workers' compensation claim ~~number numbers~~ determined to exist to corresponding ones of the sending provider computer computers, wherein said providers use said supplied claim numbers to prepare the billings, and

~~if there is no matching workers' compensation claim number,~~ automatically ~~[[send]]~~ sends an indication of the lack of determining the workers' compensation claim number

to ~~a selected~~ at least one of a plurality of payer computers, each being associated with a different payer, for each matching workers' compensation claim number determined not to exist.

Claims 2 - 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the workers' compensation claims verification system further electronically requests a workers' compensation claim number from a selected one of said plurality of payer computers.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the software accessed at the provider computer ~~is adapted to use~~ further uses the workers' compensation matching claim number received from the workers' compensation claim verification system to produce medical treatment reports ~~including the Workers' Compensation claim number.~~

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the workers' compensation claim verification system contains claim data for a number of payers.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the workers' compensation claim verification system is updated with data obtained from said payer computers.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein said at least some of the data includes name data, social security data, and injury date data.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the workers' compensation claim verification system is ~~further adapted to: request a workers' compensation claim number using a~~ comprises a database at a server, and provide ~~provides the claim number to the provider~~ computer.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 11, wherein the workers' compensation claim verification system is ~~further adapted to~~ further:

~~receive~~ receives at least one claim number from said payer computers; and

~~match~~ matches the claim numbers with associated claim verification requests.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the workers' compensation claim verification system ~~[[is]] further adapted to: receive~~ receives a plurality of unassigned claim numbers from said payer computers and ~~the Workers' Compensation claim verification system,~~ and assigns the unassigned claim numbers to ~~injuries from the blocks of unassigned claim~~ numbers in response to claim verification requests received from provider computers.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the workers' compensation claim verification system includes software that is ~~adapted to allow~~ further allows each ~~[[a]]~~ provider computer to access a payer computer, and each payer computer to access ~~[[the]]~~ each provider computer, ~~for the purpose of requesting and supplying claim numbers.~~

15. (Cancelled)

Claims 16 – 54. (Withdrawn)

Claims 55 - 71. (Cancelled)

72. (NEW) The system of Claim 1, wherein each payer is a different insurer.

73. (NEW) The system of Claim 72, wherein each sent indication alerts the associated insurer of a potential lack of claim incident information.

74. (NEW) The system of Claim 72, wherein each indication prompts the associated insurer to request claim incident information from an insured.

75. (NEW) The system of Claim 74, wherein each provider is a doctor having an associated patient having an associated employer, wherein the employer is the insured.